GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
LAW AND JUSTICE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4595
ANSWERED ON:25.04.2008
GUIDELINES ON PILs
Chaudhary Shri Pankaj;Vijay Krishna Shri ;Yerrannaidu Shri Kinjarapu

Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Supreme Court has issued directions regarding admissibility of Public Interest Litigations; and

(b) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto?

Answer

MINISTER OF LAW & JUSTICE (SHRI H.R. BHARDWAJ)

(a) & (b) : The Hon`ble Supreme Court of India has, from time to time, drawn up certain guidelines to check the misuse of Public Interest Litigation (PIL) by unscrupulous elements. In one of its judgments, it has, inter-alia, condemned the misuses of PILs by third parties with vested interests and asked High Courts to be very` circumspect in entertaining them. Expressing concern over the large number of PILs choking the judicial system, the Court observed that real and genuine public interest must be involved in the litigation. It can not be invoked by a person or bodies to further his or their persona] or political cause or satisfy his or their personal grudge and enmity. The matter of entertaining PIL and issuing guidelines and directions is within the domain of the Court in which it is filed.